

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 SS-20 INR-11 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0320

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 5673

FOR ARA FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PINT, PFOR

SUBJECT: EXPULSION FROM CHILE OF HOLY CROSS PRIEST

1. UNLESS YOU SEE OBJECTION PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO
FATHER THEODORE M. HESBURGH OF NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY.

2. WE HAVE HAD SOME SLIGHTLY UNFORTUNATE PUBLICITY TODAY IN
CONNECTION WITH FATHER PLASKER, WHOSE CASE HAS PROVOKED INQUIRIES
FROM THE WIRE SERVICES, AND I WOULD THEREFORE LIKE YOU TO HAVE THE
STORY AS WE SEE IT.

3. AS YOU KNOW, GOC EXPULSION ORDER AGAINST FATHER PLASKER HAS
BEEN OUTSTANDING SINCE ABOUT JANUARY 1974. THROUGH REPEATED
INFORMAL EMBASSY REPRESENTATIONS TO SENIOR GOC OFFICIALS, WE WERE
ABLE TO DELAY EXECUTION OF THIS ORDER ON THE UNDERSTANDING FATHER
PLASKER WOULD LEAVE CHILE OF HIS OWN VOLITION. THIS HAPPENED IN
EARLY JUNE. AT LEAST IMPLICIT IN THIS ARRANGEMENT WAS THE UNDERSTAND-
ING,
BOTH BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND THE GOC, AND BETWEEN PLASKER
AND OURSELVES, THAT PLASKER WOULD NOT RETURN TO CHILE ONCE HE HAD
DEPARTED. ANY OTHER ARRANGEMENT WOULD HAVE MADE VERY LITTLE
SENSE.

4. PLASKER'S RETURN SEPT 2 CAME AS AN UNPLEASANT SURPRISE TO
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THE GOC, CARDINAL SILVA, AND OURSELVES. ALL PARTIES HAD UNDER-

STOOD, BASED IN LARGE PART ON YOUR CONVERSATION WITH PINOCHET AND YOUR SUBSEQUENT SPANISH LANGUAGE LETTER TO HIM, THAT "CONFLICTIVE" MEMBERS OF THE HOLY CROSS ORDER WOULD NOT BE SENT TO CHILE-- CERTAINLY NOT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL QUESTION.

5. SHORTLY AFTER PLASKER'S RETURN, HE WAS ASKED TO CALL AT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, WHERE THE EXPULSION ORDER WAS SERVED ON HIM. PLASKER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A CONSULAR OFFICER. AT THAT TIME, PLASKER CONFINED HIMSELF TO REQUESTING OUR ASSISTANCE IN DETERMINING THE SPECIFIC CHARGES AGAINST HIM, AN EFFORT WE HAVE MADE, SO FAR UNSUCCESSFULLY. WE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT ANY GOVERNMENT HAS THE RIGHT TO EXPEL ANY FOREIGNER AS IT SEES FIT.

6. PLASKER AGAIN CALLED AT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR SEPT 16 ACCOMPANIED BY HOLY CROSS LAWYER IGNACIO WALKER. PLASKER'S ACCOUNT OF THIS MEETING INDICATES THAT UNDER SEC COL. ENRIQUE MONTERO, REPRESENTING THE MINISTRY, WAS FURIOUS WITH PLASKER AND AGAIN ORDERED HIM OUT OF CHILE. MONTERO PROVIDED NO EXPLANATION FOR GOC DECISION. FATHER PLASKER APPARENTLY LINKED HIS OPPOSITION TO EXPULSION IN SOME WAY TO YOUR TALKS WITH GENERAL PINOCHET. NEVERTHELESS, HE PLANS TO LEAVE CHILE THIS EVENING (SEPT 17).

7. I HOPE THAT PLASKER'S RETURN TO CHILE AND THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNOYANCE WILL NOT UNDERMINE OUR EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL PROBLEM AND OTHER RELATED PROBLEMS. IN ANY EVENT, I WANTED YOU TO BE AWARE OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND OF OUR REACTION.

8. WITH BEST REGARDS, DAVID H. POPPER.
POPPER

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